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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

U. S. Department of Agriculture
and State Agricultural Colleges
Cooperating.

States Relations Service, Office
of Extension Work North and West,
Washington, D. C.

This Looks Good

The County Agent as a Connecting Link

The Value of a County Having a Direct Government Connection.

The following is an extract from the annual report of County Agent P. T. Meyers, in Weston County, Wyoming:

"MAJOR PROJECT NO. 3.- LIVESTOCK.

Early in December 1919 the stock business all over the county was in a terrible condition. All the local feed was exhausted, deep snow covered what little grass there was and stock were dying from starvation and lack of water. Between December 5 and 10 several ranchmen in the southwestern part of the County had gathered 3000 head of cattle and wanted to ship them to feed in other states. The apparent lack of cars made shipping impossible after this huge herd of cattle were being held within a few miles from Newcastle. Everything possible was done to feed the stock and all influence with railroad officials had been used trying to get cars. On December 15, the county agent took up the matter with the Secretary of Agriculture. Following are copies of the telegrams exchanged at that time. They are self explanatory:

Newcastle, Wyo. 12-15-'19.

D. F. Houston-Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

Cattle are dying here of starvation and cold. Ranchmen have gathered about 3000 head and brought them to the railroad to ship to market and feed only to find the car shortage. We must either have cars to ship hay in or preferably cars to ship this stock out at once or most of it will die in the next couple weeks and the stock industry here be injured for years. Will you not use your influence to relieve this present car shortage here so that we may save this large bunch of stock from starvation and thus lessen the huge losses to stockmen here.

(Signed) P.T. Meyers, County Agent.

(FIRST ANSWER)

Washington, D.C. 11:24 A.M.

12-16-19

P.T. Meyers-County Agent-Newcastle, Wyo.

Your telegram fifteenth. Matter being referred by wire to Hale Holden, Regional Director U. S. Railroad Administration, Chicago, for prompt attention.

(Signed) D.F. Houston, Secretary.

(SECOND ANSWER)

Washington, D.C. 1:45 P.M.

12-17-'19

P.T. Meyers-County Agent-Newcastle, Wyo.

Holden, Regional Director U.S. Railroad Administration, Chicago, advises 600 empty stock cars enroute to Wyoming on Burlington. Assures me every possible effort will be made to bring about desired remedy as speedily as possible. Keep me advised by telegraph concerning situation.

(Signed) George M. Rommel.

(THIRD ANSWER)

Washington, D.C. 3:30 P.M.

12-19-'19

P.T. Meyers-County Agent-Newcastle, Wyo.

General Freight Agent Burlington Lines advises three hundred fifty-four single deck cars already delivered to their Wyoming districts, five hundred more on way.

(Signed) Rommel.

This shows unusual action through the Department of Agriculture - within 4 days 354 cars delivered and 500 more on their way. This action was obtained after every known means had been exhausted by banks, stockmen, etc. of this section. The benefits of this bunch of cars even at the last minute cannot be measured. Thousands of cattle were saved from starvation between Sheridan, Wyoming, and Edgemont, South Dakota. Within 72 hours after the first wire was sent 45 cars of stock were loaded and left Newcastle, Wyoming, and the county agent received thanks from a bank full of pleased stockmen."

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: County Agent Section, :
: 12-11-20 :
: No. 18-L : *Weak* :
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